THE WORLD.

NUMBER XXII.

By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *May* the 31ſt, 1753.

Eton School, MAY the 12th, 1753.

——*Non poſſum ferre, quirites,*
Græcam urbem—— JUVEN.

SIR,

YOU will be ſurprized perhaps at my preſumption in ſuppoſing that you will pay any regard to the production of a puerile pen, or that out of the mouth of *babes and ſucklings* the public will deign to receive either inſtruction or amuſement; but however that may be, I cannot forbear acknowledging the obligations I owe you, if it be only to convince you, that gratitude is ſtill a ſchool-boy's virtue. You muſt know then that ever ſince you made your firſt appearance, I have conſtantly appropriated the ſum of two-pence, out of my ſlender allowance of a ſhilling a week, for the purchaſe of your paper; and have often,

often, while my ſchool-fellows were harping on the old thread-bare ſubjects of Greece and Rome, enriched my exerciſe from your treaſure with ſome lively ſtrokes on modern manners; but never ſo much to my honour as laſt week, when the ſcrap of Juvenal prefixed to this letter was our theme. The general topic was declaiming againſt that old-faſhioned pedantic language called Greek, which you may imagine was the moſt popular turn that could be given to the ſubject here; but for my part, I choſe to conſider rather the ſpirit than the letter of my author, and to turn my ſatire againſt France, the Greece of our days; in which view I had an opportunity of introducing the deſcription of the tour to Paris, which is touched with ſuch an inimitable ſpirit of ridicule by your laſt week's correſpondent. Standard wit, like ſtandard gold, will bear a great deal of alloy without being totally debaſed; and the proof of it is, that notwithſtanding the diſadvantage of appearing under the diſguiſe of my latin-poetry, the tour to Paris *went for the play*. This expreſſion, ſir, will be jargon to the town in general; but thoſe of your readers who have been educated here will know that it means the higheſt mark of diſtinction that an Eton boy is capable of receiving; when a whole holiday is granted to the ſchool in conſideration of the merit of that copy of verſes which is adjudged the beſt, and to which the panegyric which Horace beſtows on poetry in general, when he ſtiles it *laborum dulce lenimen*, is peculiarly applicable. Imagine, what exultation of mind the young hero of ſuch a day muſt feel; the conſcious benefactor of all his little fellow-citizens, who ſhare with gratitude the happineſs derived to them from the ſucceſs of his talents! The verſes too are read, tranſcribed, repeated; the homage of admiration and of envy is paid him, and the firſt emotions of youthful vanity and ambition are fully gratified. In ſhort, not Herodotus, reciting that exerciſe of imagination which we call his hiſtory, whilſt all Greece, aſſembled in the *playing-fields* at Elis on the *whole holiday* of the olympic games, liſtened with ſilent applauſe; no, nor (to illuſtrate my idea by a ſtill ſublimer image) the great duke of Marlborough himſelf, on the thankſgiving-day for Blenheim, could taſte a purer and more exalted rapture.

FORGIVE this ſally, Mr. Fitz-Adam, and let me join with your witty correſpondent in lamenting the deficiency of

of our laws, which do not extend to the prevention of the evil he expoſes, though I cannot concur in thinking that ridicule will on this occaſion ſupply the place of wholeſome regulations.

WHETHER the remedy I am going to propoſe will be effectual for this purpoſe, I will not pretend to determine; but I confeſs it appears, to me at leaſt, ſo obvious, that I am amazed it never occurred to any one before. Give me leave to make one or two previous obſervations, and I will keep you no longer in ſuſpence.

I HAVE often heard it remarked, that a great ſchool is a miniature of the great world, and that men are nothing elſe but children of a larger ſize. If this be true, which every day's experience ſeems to juſtify, can there be any danger of fallacy in arguing that the ſame engines of government, which ſerve to eſtabliſh order in a ſchool, may be transferred for ſimilar purpoſes, with great probability of ſucceſs, to the uſe of the ſtate? Now I appeal to common ſenſe whether rambling abroad, and running out of bounds, are not exactly the ſame offences; only that the one is committed by the great children, the other by the little ones: and if the diſcipline of birch is found effectual to reſtrain it in the latter, why ſhould not the experiment be tried at leaſt with the former? The rod, Mr. Fitz-Adam, the rod is the thing, which if well adminiſtered, would ſerve to deter many a man-child from expoſing himſelf as a rambler, whoſe callous ſenſations the laſh of ridicule could make no impreſſion upon. In recommending this I am ſorry to ſay I have the authority of experience to ſupport me, having had the misfortune to feel in my own proper perſon how efficacious the ſmart of a little flagellation is to correct an inordinate paſſion for travelling: for the rage of travel, ſir, prevails in our little ſociety as in your larger one, and has formerly, when this argument *a poſteriori* was not ſo frequently uſed to diſcourage it, manifeſted itſelf in perpetual excurſions to *foreign parts*; ſuch as Cluer, Datchet, Windſor, &c. at every ſhort interval between ſchool-times, juſt as the grown children of faſhion run over to Paris during a receſs of parliament. But the ceremony of an inſtallation was equivalent to a Jubilee, and uſed to occaſion almoſt a total emigration, which I aſſure you was prevented the laſt time by this ſalutary terror; a terror which operates

perates ſo ſtrongly, that though there is now and then a clandeſtine excurſion made by ſome daring genius, yet it is but ſeldom, and attended with ſuch trepidation when it happens, as to juſtify the picture which the ſweeteſt of our elegiac poets has drawn of us;

Still as they run they look behind,
They hear a voice in every wind,
And ſnatch a fearful joy.

It may poſſibly be objected that our men-children are too big to be whipt like ſchool-boys; but if the deſcription be juſt, which I heard a gentleman at my father's give laſt holidays of our countrymen abroad, I leave you to judge whether they ſhould or not. "Strolling over "Europe (theſe were his words) and ſtaring about "them with a ſtrange mixture of raw admiration and "rude contempt; both equally the effects of ignorance "and inexperience. Inſolently deſpiſing foreign man-"ners and cuſtoms, merely becauſe they are foreign, "which yet for the ſame reaſon they would fain copy, "though awkwardly and without diſtinction. Untinc-"tured with any ſound principles of compariſon; un-"reaſonably vain, and, by turns, aſhamed of their native "country; trifling, ſheepiſh and riotous." What are theſe, Mr. Fitz-Adam, but ſchool-boys out of bounds? And ſhall they not be whipt, ſeverely whipt when they return? It is beneath the dignity of government to inflict a more ſerious puniſhment, and contrary to its wiſdom to connive at the offence.

There is a bill, I am told, depending in parliament, the idea of which, if I am rightly informed, is plainly borrowed from our cuſtom of *calling abſence*; that is, calling over the liſt of names, to which each boy is expected to appear and anſwer; I mean the regiſter bill, which it ſeems eſtabliſhes an *abſence* to be called annually throughout the kingdom: an admirable inſtitution, calculated I ſuppoſe, as among us, for the detection of theſe very offenders. Let thoſe patriots then, who have condeſcended to copy one inſtitution of ſchool-policy, adopt the whole plan; for ſurely to detect without puniſhing would be ſtopping ſhort of the mark. Suppoſe then that a bill was to be prepared, entitled, an *act againſt rambling*, which may be conſidered as a proper ſupplement to the

the vagrant act; by which a board ſhould be conſtituted and called the *home board*; the preſident and principal members of which are to be choſen out of the laudable ſociety of Anti-gallicans; to whom the proper officers appointed to *call abſence*, purſuant to the regiſter act, ſhall tranſmit annually complete liſts of abſentees in foreign parts, who on their return home ſhall be liable to be ſummoned and examined in a ſummary way before the board, whoſe ſentence ſhall be final. That all going into foreign parts ſhall not be deemed *rambling*; but that the legiſlature may in its wiſdom define the offence, and ſpecify certain tokens by which it may be aſcertained; ſuch, for inſtance, as debaſing the purity of the Engliſh language by a vile mixture of exotic words, idioms, and phraſes; all impertinent and unmeaning ſhrugs, grimaces, and geſticulations; the frequent uſe of the word *canaille*, and the leaſt contempt wantonly caſt on the roaſt-beef of old England. Theſe ſhould be deemed ſufficient evidence to convict an offender againſt this ſtatute, who ſhall be immediately brought to condign puniſhment, which is to be by *flagellation* after the manner of the ſchools: for which purpoſe a block, faſhioned like ours, may be erected on the parade, and an additional ſalary given to the uſher of the black rod to provide a ſufficient ſtore of birch, and able-bodied deputies. The number of laſhes to be proportioned to the crime; never leſs than ſeven, nor more than one-and-twenty, excluſive of the flying cuts, as the criminal riſes. The time of execution, for the ſake of public example, to be twelve at noon, and ſome one member of the *home board* always to attend and intermix proper reproofs and admonitions between the cuts, which are to be applied ſlowly and diſtinctly——Provided always that nothing in this act contained ſhall extend to perſons who croſs the ſeas in order to finiſh their ſtudies at *foreign univerſities*; to gentlemen who travel with the public-ſpirited deſign of procuring ſingers and dancers for the opera; or to ſuch young patriots who make the tour of Europe, from a laudable deſire of diſcovering the many imperfections of the Engliſh conſtitution, by comparing it with the more perfect models which are to be found abroad.

Such, ſir, are the general outlines of my ſcheme; and guarded with theſe precautions I ſhould flatter myſelf it could meet with no oppoſition. I once thought of